

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

**Please replace Figures 7-12 (3 sheets) with the replacement sheets
appended herewith.**

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are in this case. Claims 2, 5-15 and 20 were withdrawn by the Examiner from consideration under traverse of the Applicant as drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1, 3, 21 and 22 have been rejected under § 102(b) or § 103(a). Claims 4 and 16-19 have been objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The claims have now been amended, without prejudice, to conform to the patentable subject matter identified by the Examiner. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16, itself now canceled. Dependent claims 4 and 19 have been rendered into independent form. Dependent claims 17 and 18 have been amended to adjust their dependencies.

The amendment of the claims is therefore believed to render the claims in condition for immediate allowance.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for various informalities. Specifically, the Examiner has required that casing (12, 12') should be shaded in a manner representing plastic.

The Applicant's understanding is that the shading requirement relates to views in which a plastic component is shown in cross-section, namely, Figures 7-12. Accordingly, the Applicant submits herewith three replacement pages of drawings implementing the required changes to these Figures. The Applicant believes that the

Examiner's objections have been fully addressed by the changes made. A replacement set of formal drawings will be submitted after Notice of Allowance.

§ 102(b) & § 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1,3 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grotz (US 140914) or Gadberry (US 674837). The Examiner has also rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grotz in view of Gevelhoff (US 5100308). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, the Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to amend the claims to conform to the subject matter identified by the Examiner as being allowable.

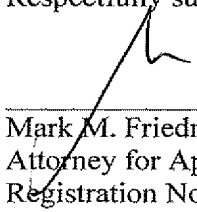
Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of objected claim 16, itself now canceled. Objected dependent claims 4 and 19 have been rendered into independent form. Dependent claims 17 and 18 have been amended to adjust their dependencies.

In view of these amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims now conform to subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejections under § 102(b) and § 103(a).

The Applicant requests that the withdrawn claims, now dependent from a generic allowable claim, be rejoined and considered.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 4 and 19, and hence also dependent claims 2, 3, 5-15, 17, 18 and 20-22, are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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